

WHY I LIKE MYSTERY BOOKS

—V.P. NARAYAN

(A 10 year old's flight into the world of mystery books, as told by him).

Talking about books, they are of many types and they impart knowledge to someone who

reads them. The types of books are: text books, mystery books, fiction books and classics. To tell the truth, I like to read mystery books and I'll tell you the main reason behind it. I have an ambition to become a detective by profession. So I think that by reading detective stories, I would be able to solve at least 4 or 5 mysteries, if not many more.

Last week when I went to the AWIC library, I got a chance, i.e., I got hold of the book *Mystery Stories*. I was very happy. I took the book and ran home. When I reached home and looked at the clock I let out a terrible groan, for it was 5.30 and time to read text books, instead of my favourite book. But my mother took pity on me and gave me half an hour to read. I thanked her, then opened the book and started reading.

The first story is about a robot with glassy eyes named Mr. Globules who loves his master. Somebody programmes him (Mr. Globules) to steal but he doesn't steal. In fact, Mr. Globules helps his master to catch the thief.

The second story is about a girl who helps her Granny to solve the *Mystery of the Missing Receipts*. In the *Old Godown* a brother and sister help the police to catch a gang of terrorists. *The Mystery of the Velvet Case* is solved by Ravi and Sonia who are going to Bangalore to meet their cousins. The velvet case contains heroin and other drugs worth crores of rupees. The next story is about 3 friends who find a spherelike thing. They are Anil, Avinash and Bhupinder. Bhupinder takes the sphere home. The next day, Avinash whispers something into Anil's ear and they start running towards Bhupinder's house. They meet him on the way and warn him that it is a bomb, but he only laughs. Anil snatches the bomb and throws it away just in time.

Now I kept the book down and looked up, only to see my mother staring sharply at me and pointing at the schoolbag. I groaned and said "Oh, will anybody take pity on me this time?"